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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,596	12/28/2000	Ravi Ganesan	3350-42	4822

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EXAMINER

HAMILTON, LALITA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,596

Applicant(s)

GANESAN ET AL.

Examiner

Lalita M. Hamilton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Summary**

On December 10, 2004, an Office Action was mailed to the Applicant rejecting claims 1-57. On March 10, 2005, the Applicant responded by amending claims 1 and 18.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 1-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shkedy (6,260,024).

Shkedy discloses a method and corresponding system for facilitating purchase orders comprising an escrow transaction, receiving an instruction from a purchaser, via a network, to effect an electronic escrow transaction associated with a sale, made via the network, of goods or services from a seller, directing at least one network communication with each of the purchaser, the seller and at least one financial institution in effecting the electronic escrow transaction, and storing a log of each communication, including the instruction, associated with the electronic escrow transaction wherein at least one of the receiving, directing and storing is performed by a Computer (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); initiating a debit from an account associated with the purchaser, storing an indication of the initiation of the debit from the purchaser account, initiating a credit to an account

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associated with the seller, and storing an indication of the initiation of the credit to the seller account (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); initiating a debit from an account associated with a processing agent, and storing an indication of the initiation of the debit from the processing agent account (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); initiating a credit to an account associated with the seller, and storing an indication of the initiation of the credit to the seller account, wherein the credit to the seller account is a corresponding credit to the debit from the processing agent account (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); transmitting a notice, via the network, to the seller that funds from an account associated with the purchaser are available and that the seller should ship the goods to, or provide the service for the purchaser and storing an indication that the notice has been transmitted to the seller (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the notice is transmitted after at least one of (i) a predetermined period, beginning at initiation of a debit to an account associated with a purchaser, has elapsed, or (ii) funds from the purchaser account are credited to an account associated with a service provider (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving, via the network, a first notice of one of (i) the goods having been shipped, or (ii) the services having been performed, storing an indication that the first notice has been received, transmitting a second notice, via the network, to the purchaser that the seller has one of (i) shipped the goods to the purchaser, or (ii) performed the services for the purchaser, and storing an indication that the second notice has been transmitted to the purchaser, wherein the first notice is received from at

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least one of (i) a shipping agent, or (ii) the seller (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the first notice includes a delivery tracking number (col.5, line 60 to col.6, line 17); receiving, via the network, a notice of one of (i) the goods having been received from the seller and being acceptable, or (ii) the services having been acceptably performed by the seller, and storing an indication that the notice has been received, wherein the notice is received from at least one of (i) the seller, (ii) a shipping agent, or (iii) the purchaser (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); initiating a credit to an account associated with the seller and storing an indication of the initiation of the credit to the seller account, wherein the credit to the seller account is initiated subsequent to receiving the notice (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving, via the network, a notice of one of (i) the goods having been shipped by the seller, or (ii) the services having been performed by the seller, initiating a credit to an account associated with the seller', storing an indication that the notice has been received, and storing an indication of the initiation of the credit to the seller account, wherein the credit to the seller account is initiated after a predetermined period, beginning at receipt of the notice, and wherein the notice is received from at least one of (i) the seller, or (ii) a shipping agent (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving, via the network, a notice of one of (i) the goods having been received from the seller and being unacceptable, (ii) the goods having not been received from the seller, (iii) the services having not been acceptably performed by the seller, or (iv) the services having not been performed by the seller, and storing an indication that the notice has been

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received (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the notice includes a notice to suspend a pending credit to an account associated with the seller (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the notice includes a notice to reverse a debit to an account associated with the purchaser (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving, via the network, a first notice that the goods have been returned shipped to the seller, storing an indication that the first notice has been received, transmitting to the seller, via the network, a second notice that the goods have been returned shipped from the purchaser, and storing an indication that the second notice has been transmitted to the seller, wherein the first notice is received from at least one of (i) the purchaser, or (ii) a shipping agent (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving, via the network, a third notice that the goods have been received by the seller, and storing an indication that the third notice has been received, wherein the third notice is received from at least one of (i) the seller, or (ii) the shipping agent (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); initiating a credit to an account associated with the purchaser, and storing an indication of the initiation of the credit to the purchaser account, wherein the credit to the purchaser account is initiated (i) upon receipt of a notice, via the network from at least one of the seller or a shipping agent, that the goods have been delivered to the seller, or (ii) after a predetermined period, beginning at a notification to the seller that the purchaser has shipped the goods to the seller, has elapsed (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the goods or services are goods or services purchased from an Internet auction

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(col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); initiating a debit from an account associated with the purchaser, initiating a credit to an escrow account associated with a processing agent, initiating a debit to the escrow account associated with the processing agent, initiating a credit to an account associated with the seller, storing an indication of the initiation of the debit to the purchaser account, and storing an indication of the initiation of the credit to the seller account (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the credit to the escrow account is a corresponding credit to the debit from the purchaser account (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); the credit to the seller account is a corresponding credit to the debit from the escrow account (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving the instruction via a web page generated subsequent to the purchaser selecting a hyper-link presented to the purchaser by an Internet web site selling goods or services (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); wherein the web page presented to the purchaser includes details of the sale (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); stored logged communications include an indication of the date and time each communication is received or transmitted (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); retrieving any of the logged and stored communications (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); receiving, from a shipping agent, a first notice that goods have been delivered to the purchaser, storing an indication that the first notice has been received, receiving, from the purchaser, a second notice that the delivered goods are acceptable, storing an

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indication that the second notice has been received, and initiating a credit to an account associated with the seller(col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20); and the credit to the account associated with the seller is initiated after at least one of (i) a predetermined period, beginning upon receipt of the first notice, has elapsed, or ii) receipt of the second notice (col.6, lines 52-63; col.11, lines 1-40; col.18, line 35 to col.20, line 20).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

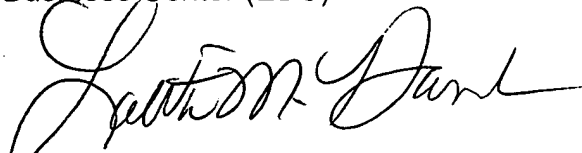
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalita M. Hamilton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6743. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday (8:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LMH